

THE
CHINA MAIL

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Hong Kong

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CINDERELLAS

In one sense, the most curious consequence of the occupation of Hong Kong is that the greater burden of the transition from war to peace is being borne by the persons least fitted to bear the strain. The majority of those in high administrative positions came within the category of "crockers" from the internment camps, health impaired by privation, their limbs no longer agile, nor their eyesight keen, keeping going mainly because whatever else may all them, their hearts are in the right place. The same goes, very largely, for those engaged through the rank and file of the essential services, and those who have been hogging themselves, working abnormally long hours in a willing effort to produce efficient utility services in the shortest possible time. It is all being done with a courage and devotion that looks beyond the daily exhaustion to the satisfaction that will come from achievement. But it is not altogether enough to observe and to give credit where it is most certainly due. It is almost inevitable, such are the peculiarities of the situation, that the old hands, equipped with the necessary knowledge of local conditions and the handling of Chinese staffs, should be called upon to make special effort at this particular moment in the Colony's history. They alone know the ropes sufficiently well to smooth out difficulties and carve through obstacles which would leave the month-old griffin gasping, helpless and appalled. Is it, however, equally inevitable that these willing horses should, all the time, be deprived of the encouragement of the odd bit of sugar? Many of them are compelled to work in garb disgraceful judged by Stanley standards—partly because they have no time to look after themselves. Ill-fitting worn-out footwear is a common complaint. Few, if any, of the ex-internees called out hurriedly from Stanley, can lay their hands on sufficient changes for the sweat and tears of the moment. Ten days ago there was talk of an issue of shorts, shirts and shoes. At least for the majority it has been a totally empty promise. Likewise with food. The rationing centre has done marvellously well with the materials placed at its disposal. But feeling grows that the essential workers in town have had the dirty end of the stick. Recitation of the list of items supplied to Stanley—butter in quantity, cheese, apples, oranges, chocolate etc. and so on—makes the townsfolk's eyes bulge with envy. And grievance grows. As one individual put it: "You need to be a bum to get anything as an essential service worker, and most of us are too busy to cultivate the art." But should it be necessary?

ARE YOU LEAVING?

Keep up-to-date with the reconstruction of Hong Kong by subscribing to "The Weekly China Mail," which will also contain all local news and photographs from "The Hong Kong Sunday Herald."

The Subscription rate for Hong Kong residents overseas will be free until the new currency is introduced, when Subscribers will be informed by letter of the Subscription rate.

THE NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE, LTD.

Windsor House, 1st Floor.
Tel. 32312

Back To Old Times

(By A Special Correspondent)
I took my first trip on a bampun since December, 1941—yesterday afternoon, curiosity as to what the boat people thought of the return to British rule prompting the hire of a native craft for a short trip in the harbour.

It was quite enjoyable, for the old boatwoman was more than willing to talk. Her explanation was that it had been such a long time since she dared to express her views freely that she was only too glad of the chance. "Well," she said, "it is indeed good to be back to old times again. When the Japanese were in occupation we had such a hard time—there was not a day when we did not go to bed hungry. My husband died of sheer starvation and so did my brother. My two daughters and I are left to fend for ourselves, but thank goodness we will not now be put to too much hardship to earn two decent meals a day."

FIXED DUES

"For one thing, when the Harbour Department says we have to pay \$5 (or even \$20) for a licence per year, we know that it will stop at that. When the Japanese were here, hardly a month passed but that we had to pay some sort of dues or other, and we were never certain how much."

"As a result, we had to be very careful with what little money we were able to earn, for if we failed to make payment when called upon to do so, there was always the danger of losing our licence altogether, or having to pay an exorbitant fine."

"Once again we can, and do, move about like free people. There is no danger of being pounced upon by a gendarme or one of their agents, with charges of every nature. That alone is enough to make us happy and contented."

Steering towards a destroyer lying at anchor, she said, "Take this as an example. If we dared so much as approach within 100 yards of any Japanese warship, we'd have been called spies. Now look what the 'hai yan' (Westerners) do. They greet us cheerfully and throw us little biscuits or any other bits of food that may be going. Can you imagine a Japanese sailor doing that?"

A SLIGHTSHOCK

Hitch-hiking these days has been reduced to a fine art. In Kowloon, particularly, "lifts" are very generously and freely given to anybody "going my way" by good-natured Servicemen who tear along the highways and byways at speeds which, ordinarily, would end up with an interview with "the Beak."

Yesterday, a weary and footsore Volunteer, was returning to Camp after a visit to town. Too tired to take any particular notice of who was driving what horse-power or make of the car that came tearing along, he signalled the usual way for a lift.

"Surg," said the driver, "jump in" and jump in the grateful Volunteer did. What his feelings were, when he found he was riding in a mortuary van, with "fourteen stiff" as he described his "companions" can be well imagined.

CRICKET CHALLENGE

Mr. K. Ramchand is willing to field a cricket eleven, representing Kowloon Indian residents, against any Royal Air Force or Royal Navy side able to make arrangements for a suitable venue. Communication with Mr. Ramchand can be made through the "China Mail."

6,000 INTERNED AT SHAMSHUIPO

A further batch of Japanese prisoners-of-war, bringing the total for the camp to 6,000 up to the present, were interned at Shamsui Shipo yesterday. They carried a large amount of luggage and had rations with them for five days.

Reservoir Full To Bell Mark

Lt. Col. John Forbes, Water Control Officer, accompanied by a small party, made a visit of inspection to Shing Mun Reservoir on Monday afternoon.

They had no difficulty in getting there by car, the branch road leading to the reservoir being in very good condition. Except for a few villagers, who were stealing wood—mostly fir saplings, unfortunately—no one was to be seen at Shing Mun.

It was a pleasant and comforting sight, to see the reservoir full and over-flowing at the bell mark.

Apart from a slight settlement of stone pitching on the downward stream face, the main dam showed no sign of deterioration. The conduit running from Shing Mun to Kowloon is, according to all accounts, functioning properly. A short section near the reservoir was destroyed by a landslide and the water is now being conveyed by a pair of 24-inch pipes laid by the Japanese.

INEVITABLE LOOTING
The apparatus control tower, except for the theft of dials, gauges and other metal fittings, is in a satisfactory condition.

Looters have already stolen nearly all the timber flooring of the bridge connecting the control tower and the dam, and a hand truck laden with a dozen floor beams was actually lying by the wayside awaiting removal. The sooner a guard is posted in this area the better, and until a guard can be arranged daily patrols would do much to prevent further looting.

TWEED BAY'S NEW NURSES

The arrival of three nursing Sisters, D. C. Irvine, A. M. Hipposley and E. Burtees, of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service Reserve, together with Nurses J. Pardoe, J. Walker and M. McIntyre of the Voluntary Aid Department, at Tweed Bay Hospital, will greatly relieve the present staff, who have carried on uncomplainingly throughout the period of internment. The Sisters and nurses arrived in Hong Kong from Leyce on board H. M. Aircraft Carrier "Vengeance," and this preliminary group will be enlarged by the addition of several more Sisters, who are due to arrive shortly on a hospital ship.

VICTORY SERVICE

AT
CAFE LIDO
10, QUEEN'S ROAD, C.
Tel. 31868

BREAKFAST,
TIFFIN, TEA &
DINNER

EAT AT
JIMMY'S
TO-DAY

Tria Juncta In Uno

Three Knights Grand Cross of the Bath (G.C.B.) were created in the King's V-Day Honours List. One smashed the Germans on land—Field-Marshal Montgomery. The second smashed them from the air—Air Chief Marshal (Bomber) Harris. The third smashed them at sea—Admiral Sir Max (Western Approaches) Horton, the U-defeater.

And the Motto of the Order of the Bath is "Tria Juncta In Uno"—three joined in one.

There are five barons: Field-Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode, 76-year-old chairman of the Red Cross and St. John War Organisation.

Sir William Braer, Tory M.P. for Clitheroe since 1922.

Major Sir William Cope, K.C., former Government Whip and Chairman of the Conservative Central Council.

Major Sir (Albert) James Edmondson, Tory M.P. for Banbury since 1922.

Sir Eugene Ramsden, Tory M.P. for Bradford North and a director of Lloyds Bank.

NEW BARONETS

New baronets are: Air Chief Marshal Sir Wilfred Freeman, Chief Executive, Ministry of Aircraft Production.

Sir Alfred James Hawkey, chairman of West Essex Unionist Association.

Mr. Richard Denman, "MacDonaldite" M.P. for Leeds Central.

Mr. Henry Hill Mulholland, Speaker of the Northern Ireland House of Commons.

NEW MEDICAL CENTRES

Medical centres for dependents of members of Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps, according to the latest information, are to be set up in the following places:—

Outpatients (Hong Kong): Supreme Court (Dr. Selby) 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.; Fire Brigade Building, Chinese Centre; Kowloon: St. George's Building (China Light & Power Co., Waterloo Road).

Hospital Treatment (Hong Kong):—Yeung Wo Hospital, Happy Valley; Netherlands Hospital, Bonham Road; Kowloon: Kwong Wah Hospital.

It is also notified that Kowloon Hospital will open soon to take both in- and out-patients.

NAVAL SPORTING AMENITIES

Captain D. L. Neame, D.S.O., R.N., of H.M.S. Vengeance, who is responsible for the opening up of sporting amenities for the Navy in Hong Kong, informed the "China Mail" yesterday that a soccer match between representative teams of the Royal Navy and the R.A.F. will take place at Causeway Bay to-morrow or Friday. The announcement that Swiftsure would play R.A.F. was in error. The naval side will be chosen from all ships in the Harbour.

NEW JOBS

The following appointments are announced in the latest H.K.V.D.C. orders:— Lt. D. L. Prophet to be Quartermaster vice Capt. G. H. Calvert, with effect from September 10. Pte. H. R. Tappenden promoted temporary (paid) Sergeant and appointed to the Quartermaster's staff with effect from September 10.

Sub. Lt. B. Parkinson, H.K.R.N. V.R., has been appointed A.D.C. to H.E. the Lieut.-Governor in place of Capt. J. K. R. MacGregor.

VICTORY GREETINGS FROM
A. DAVID
EXPERT CUTTER
ALEXANDRA BUILDING
RESUMING BUSINESS VERY SHORTLY

H. K. BOY SERVING IN INDIA

With so many former Hong Kong residents returning to the Colony from different parts of the world since the surrender by Japan, news in connection with the whereabouts of people who left the Colony since December 25, 1941 continues to trickle in.

The many friends of Mr. M. el Arculli, Indian, Recreation Club cricketer, and pitcher-captain of the H.B. baseball team, which won the baseball championship here in 1939, will be interested to learn that he is now a Lieutenant in the Rajputana Rifles, stationed in India, and that he will shortly be due to arrive in the Colony by air. He was formerly employed in the Royal Naval Dockyard here.

Mr. H. J. Yappe, who was on the editorial staff of the "China Mail" and "Sunday Herald" in Chungking, where he is a member of the staff of the Ministry of Information.

Mr. Yappe left the Colony early in January, 1942, and made his way to China's wartime capital via Shikwan, while Lt. Arculli left here in February, 1942, for Macao. From the Portuguese colony he made his way, overland, to Chungking and from there flew to India.

RADIO

WEDNESDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER 1945.

ZBW HONGKONG Broadcasting on Frequencies of 845 Kilocycles and 9.47 Megacycles.

12.30 p.m.—Compositions of Chopin.

12.40 p.m.—Orchestral Programme.

1.0 p.m.—News & Announcements.

1.10 p.m.—Arthur Askey in Variety.

1.30 p.m.—MANDARIN & CANTONESE PROGRAMMES.

2.0 p.m.—Close down.

6.30 p.m.—Compositions of Eric Coates.

7.0 p.m.—News & Announcements.

7.10 p.m.—Dance Music.

7.30 p.m.—MANDARIN & CANTONESE PROGRAMMES.

8.0 p.m.—News and Announcements in English.

9.10 p.m.—Second Reading of Information Regarding Relatives of Internees.

9.30 p.m.—Light Orchestral Programme with Milla Korjus (Soprano).

10.0 p.m.—London Relay: News and Highlights from the Newspapers.

10.15 p.m.—London Relay: "Home-ward Bound" A Special Programme for P.O.W.

10.30 p.m.—Close down.

NOTICE

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

Our Registered Offices have been transferred to Gloucester Building, 1st floor, B. C. Field, Secretary.

September 8, 1945.

NOTICE TO CONSUMERS OF ELECTRICITY

Consumers are requested to pay accounts in Military Yen as usual at the offices of the former Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd., 3rd floor, P. & O. Building, Hongkong, and Argyle Street, Kowloon, until further notice.

September 7, 1945.

Controller of Electricity.

TO LET

NICELY FURNISHED ROOMS TO LET. ALL MODERN CONVENIENCES. QUIET LOCALITY. APPLY MRS. PEARS, 4, KNIGHT STREET, KOWLOON.

DODWELL & CO., LTD.

Enquiries will be received at Temporary Office in Alexandra Building, No. 5, Des Voeux Road Central (Office Appliance shop).

FOREIGN CURRENCY AND YEN

How is the rate of exchange between foreign currencies and the Military Yen fixed? This is a question that one hears from all sides, for despite the absence of any official rate of exchange, quite a lot of unofficial business is being done between stockkeepers and members of the Services who have nothing but Australian currency with which to do their shopping.

The "rate" varies in different places. At one store yesterday, the master slyly said "M.Y. 300" when a sailor produced an Australian pound note and asked "how much?"

Not unnaturally "Jack" was somewhat indignant at the quotation of only M.Y. 300, but it was the shopkeeper's turn to assume the "injured party" role when M.Y. 1200 was demanded.

AUSTRALIAN FLORINS

At another place a couple of sailors produced a handful of Australian florins and asked "how many of these for a bottle of beer?" Quick as lightning the man behind the counter produced the trusty abacus and, after a great deal of manipulation, calmly stated that he wanted "fourteen pieces," adding that if the prospective customer could pay in U.S. currency, then the "damage" would be only \$1.50.

The parties concerned in this would-be transaction, part of the best of friends, the sailors retaining their florins and the stockkeeper his beer.

The Black Market rates for yen are enough to give an indication of what value the public places on money that was being printed by the Japanese, "like so many tram tickets," as one local merchant so aptly put it.

Yesterday morning one could get as many as M.Y. 60 for a Hong Kong dollar. In the afternoon, however, the quotation was M.Y. 67, but there were only a few buyers. Pending an official announcement, the general public are chary of giving yen, the majority of the people showing a decided preference to "hang on" to what Hong Kong money they have managed to hide from the Japanese.

Quite a brisk business is being done between our visitors and the surprising large number of people who have turned watch dealers. In most cases a pound or two pounds will secure a fairly good-looking watch, but the antecedents of the works of most of these time-pieces are open to question.

TWO NAMES ON WATCH

The writer happened to witness one of these deals, and a pound appeared to be quite a reasonable price for a fairly new "Wyley," but for the fact that closer examination revealed the tell-tale fact that the back of the watch bore another name, "stainless steel, waterproof!"

The presence of a large number of English and American cigarettes on the pavement stalls and even in shops is due to the fact that Service Customers have not yet and secure what they require by exchanging packets of cigarettes.

P. I. CIRCULARS

A notice, issued by the Chief Censor's Office yesterday, states:—"A number of circular letters from the Baguio Gold Mining Company, post marked Manila, August 16, 1945, have been received in this office. It has not been possible to deliver some of these on account of insufficient address. Any person expecting to receive any communication from the above-mentioned Company is, therefore, requested to call at the General Post Office."

TRAITOR'S BOARD

Million pound fortune of Joseph Darnand, the "French Himmler," has been transferred from its hiding place in Italy to the Ministry of Finance in Paris, says "L'Espresso."

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